

Adjectives / Adverbs / Comparisons

4



Listen and repeat. Then act out.



- **Adjectives describe nouns.** They had a **nasty** experience. (What kind of experience? A nasty one.) There are **fact** adjectives (*big, square, red, etc.*) and **opinion** adjectives (*beautiful, nice, etc.*). Adjectives have the same form in the singular and plural. *the little girl/the little girls* They normally go before nouns. *He is a good boy.* After state verbs: **appear, be, become, get, feel, look, seem, smell, sound, stay, taste** we use adjectives, not adverbs. *The soup tastes delicious.* (NOT: *deliciously*)
- Many common adjectives (*pretty, sad, etc.*) do not have particular endings. There are some common endings, however, for **adjectives formed from nouns and verbs**. These are:

-able	comfortable	-ent	dependent	-ical	historical	-like	businesslike
-al	accidental	-esque	picturesque	-ious	victorious	-ly	friendly
-ant	reluctant	-ful	careful	-ish	childish	-ory	compulsory
-ar	circular	-ian	Italian	-ist	racist	-ous	dangerous
-ary	imaginary	-ible	horrible	-ive	attractive	-some	wholesome
-ate	passionate	-ic	historic	-less	careless	-y	lucky
- There are also **compound adjectives** which are formed with:
 - 1 **present participles.** *a time-consuming task, a never-ending story*
 - 2 **past participles.** *worn-out shoes, a broken-down car*
 - 3 **cardinal numbers + nouns.** *a two-day seminar* (NOT: *a two-days seminar*), *a three-week holiday*
 - 4 **well, badly, ill, poorly + past participle.** *a well-paid job, a poorly-built house, an ill-chosen remark*
- Certain **adjectives** are used with **the** as nouns to talk about groups of people in general. These are: *the elderly, the middle aged, the old, the young, the blind, the dead, the deaf, the disabled, the living, the sick, the homeless, the hungry, the poor, the rich, the strong, the unemployed, the weak, etc.* *The old usually walk slowly.* (= we refer to old people in general) **BUT** *The old people in the building are annoyed with the landlord.* (= we refer to a specific group of old people) When we talk about one person we say **An/The old man, A/The blind man, etc.** *The rich pay a lot of income tax.* (*rich people in general – all of them*) *The rich people of our town had a banquet last weekend.* (*a specific group of rich people – not all of them*)

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1

Fill in an appropriate adjective derived from the words in brackets.

THE KINGSLEY HOTEL
For the Perfect Holiday

The Kingsley is a(n) 1) *luxurious* (luxury) hotel situated in the 2) (picture) Kent countryside. Its 3) (beauty) gardens and 4) (style) interior make it a highly 5) (desire) destination for visitors from both Britain and abroad. The Kingsley offers a huge number of facilities including a gym and a(n) 6) (attract) 18-hole golf course. The Kingsley is also of 7) (history) interest as it was built in the early 17th century. Visitors of all tastes are sure to have a(n) 8) (enjoy) stay at this 9) (wonder) hotel.



2

Fill in: *the + adjective* or *the + adjective + people*.

- The government is cutting back on benefits for *the unemployed* (unemployed)
- A nurse is a person who looks after (sick)
- Some of in the neighbourhood remember when it was bombed during the war. (old)
- A new hostel is to be opened for (homeless)
- Mother Teresa worked to help of Calcutta. (poor)
- The survey showed that control 90% of the country's wealth. (rich)

Order of Adjectives

- Opinion** adjectives (*bad, pretty, etc.*) go before **fact** adjectives (*red, ancient, etc.*). *She's a pretty Italian girl.*
- When there are two or more adjectives of the same category, **the more general** adjective goes **before the more specific** one. *a nice friendly dog*
- We say **the first three months** (NOT: ~~the three first months~~), **the last two hours**, etc.
- When there are two or more fact adjectives in a sentence they normally go in the following order:

	Opinion	Fact Adjectives							Noun
		Size	Age	Shape	Colour	Origin	Material	Used for/Be about	
<i>It's a</i>	<i>nice</i>	<i>small</i>	<i>old</i>	<i>square</i>	<i>white</i>	<i>Italian</i>	<i>wooden</i>	<i>dinner</i>	<i>table.</i>

- We usually do not use a long list of adjectives before a single noun. A noun is usually described by one, two or three adjectives at the most. *a beautiful, white wedding dress*
- The adjectives **afraid, alike, alive, alone, ashamed, asleep, content, glad, ill**, etc. are never followed by nouns. *The girl was left alone.* (NOT: ~~the alone girl~~)
- The adjectives **chief, elder, eldest, former, indoor, inner, main, only, outdoor, outer, principal, upper** can only be used before nouns. *This is the main entrance.* (NOT: ~~This entrance is main.~~)
- We can use **nouns as adjectives** before other nouns. In this case the nouns have no plural form. *I attend evening classes. I had a three-week holiday in Spain.* (NOT: ~~a three-weeks holiday~~)
- Nouns** which express **purpose, material** or **substance** (*shopping, cotton, gold, silver, etc.*) can be used **as adjectives** before other nouns. *He bought a new cotton shirt. I can't find my shopping bag. They're having a stone wall built. But we say: wooden table* (NOT: ~~wood table~~), *woollen scarf* (NOT: ~~wool scarf~~). Note: *golden hair* (hair like gold) but *gold watch* (watch made of gold), *silk dress* (dress made of silk) but *silky hair* (hair which feels like silk), *stone wall* (wall made of stone) but *stony look* (cold look – like stone), *feather pillow* (pillow stuffed with feathers) but *feathery leaves* (leaves which look like feathers).
- Present** and **past participles** can be used **as adjectives**. Present participles describe what something is like. *The match was exciting.* Past participles describe how someone feels. *We felt excited at the match.*

3 Rewrite the sentences putting the adjectives into the correct order, then identify what kind of adjectives they are.

- I love chocolate. (milk, Belgian, tasty)
I love tasty Belgian milk chocolate.
(opinion, origin, material)
- They visited a temple. (stone, ancient, huge)
- She is wearing a dress. (blue, beautiful, velvet)

- The dog is sitting by a fireplace. (French, marble, lovely)
- Frank is looking for a pair of socks. (grey, woollen, football)
- Lisa has a table. (dining-room, round, large)

4 Underline the correct adjective.

- Kim's dad gave her an expensive gold / golden necklace for her birthday.
- The cat jumped over a low stone / stony wall and ran away.
- The cleaner used a feather / feathery duster to dust the furniture.
- This cream will leave your skin feeling silk / silky and soft.
- Sue kept all the children's toys in a large wood / wooden box.
- She was driving a metal / metallic black van.

5 Make compound adjectives to describe the following:

- a walk that takes five minutes
a five-minute walk
- a book which is written badly
- a course that lasts three years

- a woman who works hard
- a journey that takes two hours
- a hotel with five stars

6 Put the adjectives in the correct order.

Description	Features	Floor plan	Location map	Rates	Enquiry
 HOT DEAL CENTRAL CITY Apartment/Condo – Property Ref No: BCS2BN1305 HOT DEAL: Special price available. Call us for rates.	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION This is a 1) <i>luxurious, large, new</i>. (large, luxurious, new) apartment right in the heart of Sydney. It has a 2) (wooden, beautiful, long) balcony giving incredible views of the city. It also has 3) (glass, tall, rectangular) windows which let in plenty of sunlight. There is a 4) (burgundy-coloured, comfortable, designer) sofa in the living room and a(n) 5) (expensive, square, modern) coffee table. There are two 6) (white, medium-sized, lovely) bedrooms, each with its own private bathroom. There is a(n) 7) (outdoor, new, popular) swimming pool located on the apartment rooftop that is absolutely free of charge. There is also a(n) 8) (seafood, excellent, Australian) restaurant located just next to the apartment entrance.				